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VOC FOR IOP/FN  
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5774  
AL GRIGIS

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# STRATTON AMENDMENT ON U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA

ANNCR:

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARMED SERVICE COMMITTEE IS SEEKING TO REQUIRE PRESIDENT CARTER TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND AMERICAN GROUND TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA UNTIL THERE IS A FORMAL PEACE TREATY BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. VOA'S AL GRIGIS HAS DETAILS IN THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

THE AMENDMENT WAS PROPOSED BY REPRESENTATIVE SAMUEL STRATTON AND IS ATTACHED TO A DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL, WHICH WILL GO TO THE FULL HOUSE FOR CONSIDERATION. A REPORT ISSUED BY A SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH MR. STRATTON HEADS ARGUES THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA ON A PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED FIXED TIME SCHEDULE WOULD INCREASE THE RISK OF WAR IN KOREA REGARDLESS OF THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE COMBAT CAPABILITIES OF THE SOUTH KOREANS.

THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT, ON THE BASIS OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES AND OTHER INFORMATION, NORTH KOREA POSSES THE CAPABILITY OF ATTACKING THE SOUTH WITH A MINIMUM OF WARNING. AND IT RECOMMENDS THAT NO GROUND FORCES BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT THE TRANSFER TO KOREAN GROUND FORCES EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN CONTINUE DETERRENCE AND TO PROTECT REMAINING U.S. GROUND FORCES.

PRESIDENT CARTER THIS WEEK DELAYED THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOME AMERICAN UNITS FROM KOREA UNTIL CONGRESS ACTS ON HIS REQUEST TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH KOREA TO COMPENSATE FOR THE REDUCTION IN AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES. ONLY 800 U.S. TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN THIS FALL, INSTEAD OF THE

MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND ORIGINALLY PLANNED. UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN, THE UNITED STATES WOULD WITHDRAW ALL COMBAT GROUND TROOPS OVER FIVE YEARS, BUT WOULD CONTINUE AIR AND NAVAL SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAROLD BROWN HAS INDICATED THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK BY NORTH KOREA AFTER U.S. GROUND FORCES HAD LEFT SOUTH KOREA THAT THE UNITED STATES AIRFORCE COULD MOVE THE SAME DAY AS THE NORTH KOREANS AND THAT AMERICAN GROUND FORCES STATIONED IN OKINAWA AND U.S. NAVAL UNITS WOULD FOLLOW.

JS/PY